



Seated (from left): **Council Vice Chair Julia Patterson, Council Chair Larry Gossett, and Council Vice Chair Jane Hague.** Standing (from left): Kathy Lambert, Rod Dembowski, Joe McDermott, Larry Phillips, Reagan Dunn, and Pete von Reichbauer.

As your Metropolitan King County Council, we oversee the second largest government and the most populous county in Washington State. With 1.96 million residents, King County is the 14th largest county in the United States in terms of population. Coincidentally, there are more people living in King County than 14 states! At 2,134 square miles, the county covers more territory than the states of Rhode Island and Delaware.

Our dedicated employees provide quality regional services every day to county residents. We are also the local government for approximately 255,000 people who live in our urban and rural unincorporated areas, and we provide services by contract to many of the county's 39 cities.

As the legislative branch of county government, the Council sets policies, enacts laws, and adopts budgets that guide an array of services for this region, including:

- the criminal justice system of prosecutors and public defenders, District and Superior Courts, juvenile detention and adult jails;
- the King County Sheriff's Office, which directly serves residents of unincorporated areas and contracts with many cities to provide police protection;

- public health and human services;
- Metro Transit bus service and county roads;
- wastewater treatment and solid waste management;
- regional parks, open space and trails; and
- elections, records, and licensing.

Each of the nine members of the King County Council represents a geographical district of about 217,000 residents. Councilmembers are elected on a non-partisan basis and serve four-year terms.

The Council has four standing committees that oversee specific government functions of county government and a Committee of the Whole that includes all Councilmembers. Councilmembers also work closely with elected officials from local jurisdictions on three regional committees that address common interests in matters of policy, transit, and water quality.

The Council's review of ordinances, motions, and budgets help ensure that county government operates in an efficient, transparent, and cost-effective manner, with equal access for all county residents.

Get agendas, minutes, and meeting videos online at:
www.kingcounty.gov/council

Message from the Council Chair



Larry Gossett, Chair and Councilmember

leading regional governments nationally that seek to create a fair and equitable society.

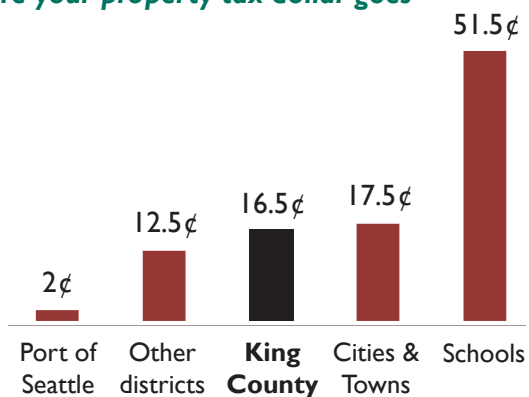
The official re-designation of King County to the name of our nation's greatest civil rights leader, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in 2005 was a milestone in our county's history. The effort to integrate equity and social justice across the practices and services of county government, begun in 2010, has been a similar milestone. This initiative, which echoes Dr. King's ideals, places us among

As our region has become increasingly diverse, both racially and economically, it is important that the County's policies and procedures provide equal access and opportunity to all our residents. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, King County is now one of the more diverse regions in the United States, with over 120 languages spoken within county boundaries.

I am honored to have been chosen by my colleagues to chair the King County Council for a third year during this time of opportunity and challenge. As a Council, we are engaged in a careful balancing act to preserve and allocate needed county services, such as transportation and health and human services, as demand increases but revenue declines. (Please see budget information below.) I believe that success in this mission lies in a joint effort between the County and its residents and ask for your participation and commitment to this task.

Understanding the county budget

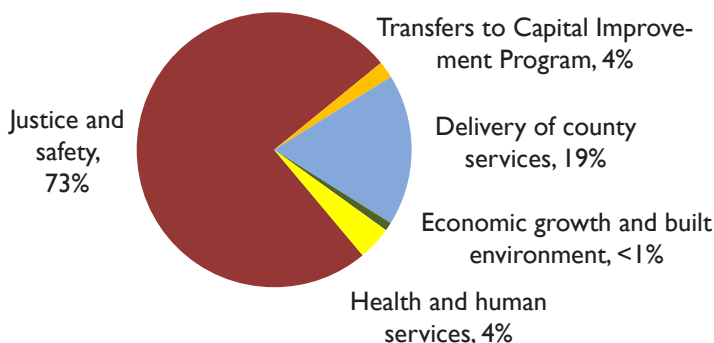
Where your property tax dollar goes



The county budget is composed of two types of funds: dedicated funds and the General Fund. Dedicated funds are the largest portion at 88% of the total budget. By law, these funds are restricted to specific purposes, such as transit, sewage treatment, and voter-approved programs.

The discretionary portion of the county budget is the General Fund, which amounts to 12% of the total budget. These funds pay for critical day-to-day services not supported by other revenues. Almost three quarters of the General Fund (73%) goes to pay for criminal justice and public safety, as mandated by the State. The remainder must fund other services, such as Elections and human services (see pie chart).

General fund expenditures

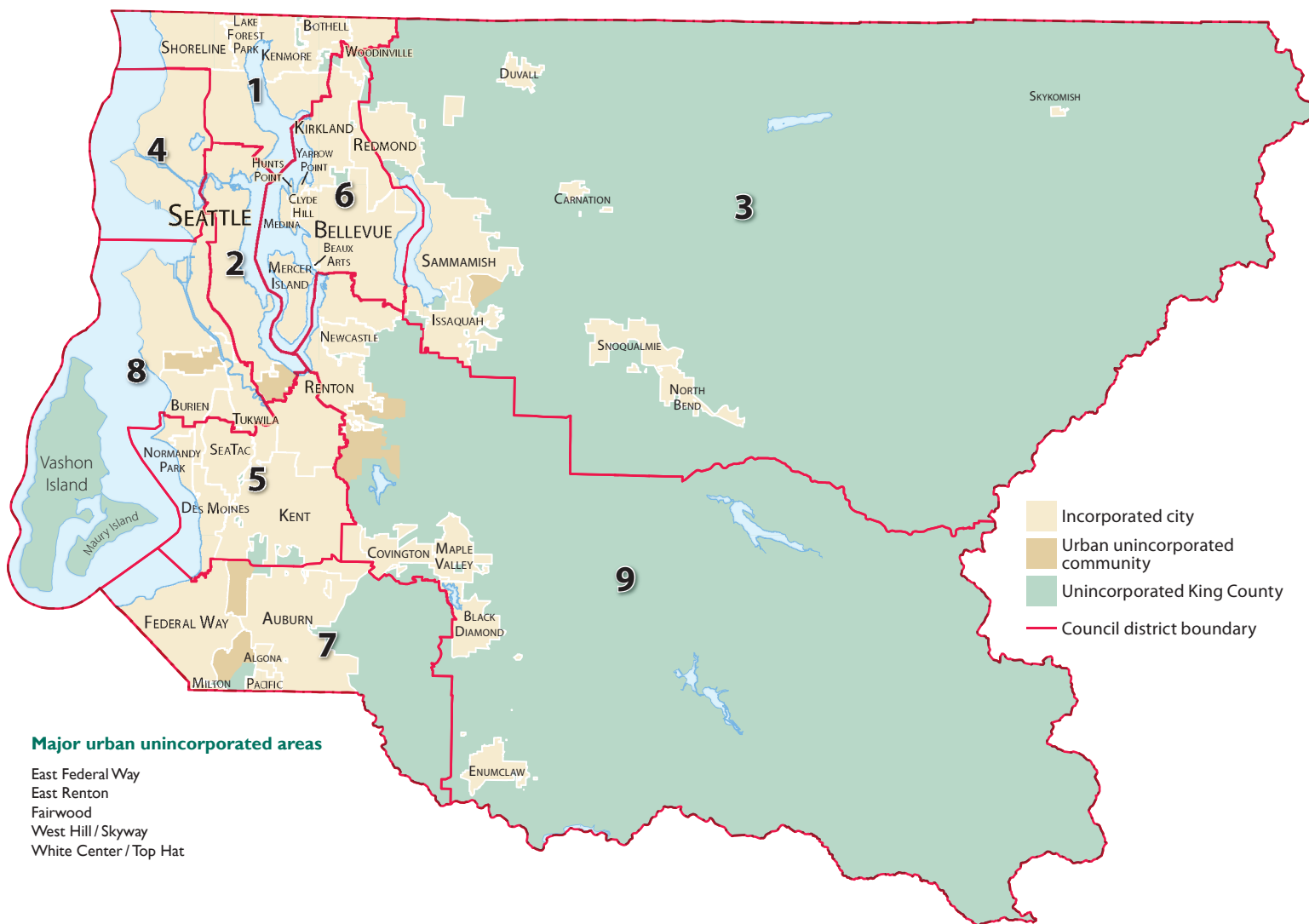


The General Fund is supported mostly by property tax, sales tax, and fees. By law, the County collects property tax on behalf of all taxing districts within the county. However, the County receives only 17 cents of every property tax dollar, with the rest going to other agencies (see bar graph). Similarly, King County receives less than one cent of the 9.5 cents sales tax per dollar collected in most of the county.

Since Washington State enacted the one percent cap on property tax increases in 2002, counties across our state have faced a gap between revenue and the cost of providing services. This structural gap has resulted in the county budget being cut by \$384 million during the past decade. The projected deficit for 2014 is \$17 million.

For more information, please visit
www.kingcounty.gov/council/budget

King County's urban and rural landscape



Major urban unincorporated areas

East Federal Way
East Renton
Fairwood
West Hill / Skyway
White Center / Top Hat

Contact information

The King County Council meets Mondays at 1:30 p.m. on the 10th floor of the King County Courthouse. You can watch all meetings held in the chambers live on King County TV, cable channel 22, and online at our website. Agendas, minutes, and archived video of past meetings are also available online at www.kingcounty.gov/council.

Mailing address

Metropolitan King County Council
King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue, 12th Floor
Seattle, WA 98104-3272

Telephone

(206) 477-1000, Toll-free: (800) 325-6165
Fax: (206) 296-0198
TTY/TDD: (206) 296-1024

Online

Web: www.kingcounty.gov/council
Facebook: www.facebook.com/KingCountyCouncil
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/KCCouncil>

Clerk of the Council

E-mail: clerk.council@kingcounty.gov
Telephone: (206) 477-1020

Which Council district do I live in?

Enter your address at
www.kingcounty.gov/council/councilmembers

Dist.	Councilmember	Phone	E-mail
1	Rod Dembowski	296-1001	rod.dembowski@kingcounty.gov
2	Larry Gossett	296-1002	larry.gossett@kingcounty.gov
3	Kathy Lambert	477-1003	kathy.lambert@kingcounty.gov
4	Larry Phillips	296-1004	larry.phillips@kingcounty.gov
5	Julia Patterson	296-1005	julia.patterson@kingcounty.gov
6	Jane Hague	296-1006	jane.hague@kingcounty.gov
7	Peter von Reichbauer	296-1007	pete.vonreichbauer@kingcounty.gov
8	Joe McDermott	296-1008	joe.mcdermott@kingcounty.gov
9	Reagan Dunn	296-1009	reagan.dunn@kingcounty.gov

Committees and special governments

The King County Council reviews proposed legislation through a number of standing committees that oversee specific government functions. Councilmembers work closely with elected officials from local jurisdictions on regional committees that address common interests in policy, transit, and water quality. In addition, Councilmembers serve as the Board of Supervisors of two special-purpose governments, created under authority provided by the State Legislature.

Council committees

Committee of the Whole

Legislation and policy issues of interest to the entire Council.

Chair: Julia Patterson

Vice Chair: Jane Hague

Members: All Councilmembers

Budget and Fiscal Management

Capital and operating appropriations. Oversight of annual county budget, including current revenue and expenses.

First and third Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.

Chair: Joe McDermott

Vice Chair: Kathy Lambert

Members: Jane Hague, Julia Patterson, Larry Phillips

Government Accountability and Oversight

Accountability and oversight for efficiency, cost effectiveness, and performance improvement of county departments and programs.

Second and fourth Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.

Chair: Pete von Reichbauer

Vice Chair: Larry Gossett

Members: Rod Dembowski, Reagan Dunn

Law, Justice, Health and Human Services

Justice, public safety and health, human services, housing, and emergency management.

Second, fourth, and fifth Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.

Chair: Kathy Lambert

Vice Chair: Larry Gossett

Members: Rod Dembowski, Joe McDermott,

Transportation, Economy and Environment

Growth management, economic development, environmental issues, wastewater and solid waste, parks, public transportation, and county road system.

First, third, and fifth Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.

Chair: Larry Phillips

Vice Chair: Reagan Dunn

Members: Rod Dembowski, Jane Hague, Kathy Lambert, Joe McDermott, Pete von Reichbauer

Regional committees

Regional Policy

Countywide plans and policies on issues such as human services, solid waste, disaster planning, and criminal justice.

Second Wednesday at 3:00 p.m.

Chair: Peter von Reichbauer

Vice Chair: Auburn Mayor Pete Lewis

Members: Larry Gossett, Kathy Lambert

Sound Cities Association Members: Federal Way City Councilmember Dini Duclos, Shoreline City Councilmember Will Hall, Woodinville Mayor Bernie Talmas

City of Seattle Members: Councilmember Sally Clark, Councilmember Mike O'Brien

Regional Transit

Countywide plans and policies pertaining to King County Metro Transit services and facilities.

Third Wednesday at 3:00 p.m.

Chair: Rod Dembowski

Vice Chair: Redmond City Councilmember Kimberly Allen

Members: Joe McDermott, Julia Patterson

Sound Cities Association Members: Federal Way City Councilmember Jeanne Burbidge, Issaquah City Councilmember Fred Butler, Shoreline Councilmember Chris Eggen, Algona Mayor Dave Hill, Burien City Councilmember Joan McGilton, Renton City Councilmember Marcie Palmer, Sammamish City Councilmember Tom Vance

City of Seattle Members: Councilmember Sally Bagshaw, Councilmember Tom Rasmussen

Regional Water Quality

Plans and policies for construction, operation, and financing of wastewater treatment facilities; other water quality concerns.

First Wednesday at 3:00 p.m.

Chair: Larry Phillips

Vice Chair: Bellevue City Councilmember Don Davidson

Members: Rod Dembowski, Reagan Dunn

Sound Cities Association Members: Black Diamond City Councilmember Craig Goodwin, Shoreline City Councilmember Doris McConnell, Auburn City Councilmember Bill Pelozo

Sewer District Members: Cedar River Water/Sewer District Commissioner Walter Canter, Southwest Suburban Sewer District Commissioner William Tracy

City of Seattle Members: Councilmember Sally Bagshaw, Councilmember Jean Godden

Special-purpose governments

King County Ferry District

Fourth Monday of January, April, July, and October at 1:30 p.m.
www.kingcountyferries.org

King County Flood Control District

Second Monday of January, April, July, and October at 1:30 p.m.
www.kingcountyfloodcontrol.org